

## Message Text

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42

ORIGIN ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SAB-01 SS-14 PM-03 ISO-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMOREYBELL:VV

APPROVED BY S/AB:AMB.BUNKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137408

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: PLANNED REVI-  
SION OF USSOUTHCOM STRUCTURE.

FOR AMBASSADOR JORDEN FROM BUNKER

1. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING THE FOLLOWING TEXT TO  
TACK BEFORE 5:00 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME JUNE 13.
2. WE ARE POUCHING TO YOU PAPERS WHICH EXPLAIN THE  
DETAILS OF THIS EXERCISE, BUT ARE CONFIDENT YOU WILL KNOW  
PERFECTLY WELL WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT FROM THE TEXT OF THE  
MESSAGE.
3. BEGIN QUOTE. PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL. DEAR TONY:
4. I SIMPLY WANTED YOU AND NICO AND, IF YOU WISH, THE  
GENERAL TO KNOW -- IN ADVANCE OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS -- THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN  
TAKEN TO LOWER THE RANK OF THE USSOUTHCOM COMMANDER. THE  
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NEXT INCUMBENT OF THAT POSITION WILL BE AN OFFICER

WITH THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL, RATHER THAN GENERAL.

5. AS OUR MILITARY COLLEAGUES SAY, HE WILL BE A "THREE-STAR" RATHER THAN A "FOUR-STAR" MAN.

6. I THOUGHT THAT THIS DECISION, WHICH HAS NO IMPLICATIONS OTHER THAN BUREAUCRATIC ONES, MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT CONFUSING TO PANAMA AND PERHAPS COME AS A "SURPRISE" -- WHICH YOU AND I HAVE AGREED TO AVOID.

7. AS I SAID ON THE TELEPHONE, WE LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO BEING BACK ON CONTADORA -- AND, I SHOULD ADD, TO DOING SOME NEGOTIATING.

8. WARMEST REGARDS, ELLSWORTH. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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